Change of course of rivers

145. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various rivers in the country are showing change of course as reported by remote sensing equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the plans of Government for desalination and erosion control of rivers in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on the study of remotely sensed satellite images, the changes in the river course of Brahmaputra, some reaches of Ganga and its tributaries have been observed. Studies carried out by the National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA) on the Brahmaputra River has shown changes in river course and river bank erosion at many places in the State of Assam. Study carried out by Central Water Commission from Karnal to Panipat, and from Tajewala to Okhla using remote sensing shows changes in river course of Yamuna in these two reaches. Similarly, remote sensing study on river Ganga from Buxar to Farakka Barrage shows changes in river course at several locations.

(c) Drinking Water Supply being a State subject, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government by rendering financial and technical assistance under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) for rural areas which *inter alia* includes desalination. Up to 15% of ARWSP funds have been earmarked for tackling water quality problems. 194 desalination plants were approved by Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, of which 150 were installed by States, 38 of these are reportedly working.

Though the flood management/erosion control is within the purview of State Governments, the Central Government has been rendering assistance to the States to tackle the problem. Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared Comprehensive Plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Likewise, Brahmaputra Board has also prepared the Master Plan for river Brahmaputra and its tributaries

separately. These plans have been sent to the concerned State Governments for follow-up actions on the recommendations made in these plans.

In view of serious nature of erosion in Ganga basin, Central Government has formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, "Critical Anti-erosion Works in Ganga Basin States" for implementation during 2004—07 of 10th Plan which is under implementation. The total cost of the scheme is Rs. 178.85 crore with Central Share of Rs. 136.17 crore and State Share of Rs. 42.68 crore. Another scheme, "Critical Flood Control and Anti-erosion Schemes in Brahmaputra and Barak valley" under State Sector has also been approved by Government of India at an estimated cost of Rs. 150.00 crore (90% grant and 10% loan).

Sharing of Cauvery water

146. SHRIMATI S. G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had demanded allocation of 562 thousand million cubic feet of Cauvery water to meet its irrigation, domestic and industrial requirements;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had urged that the water available in Cauvery river basin be given to the riparian States on priority basis; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The water dispute relating to inter-State river Cauvery and river valley thereof among the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala and Union Territory of Pondicherry was referred to the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) on June 2, 1990 under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication. The Tribunal has taken up arguments on the issues framed by it and Tamil Nadu has submitted its arguments. The matter is subjudice before Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT).